

4 The **postal** administration of a member country may, in addition, reserve the right to require the reply coupons and the items to be prepaid in exchange for those reply coupons to be presented at the same time.

Article 23

Fragile parcels. Cumbersome parcels

1 Any parcel containing articles which are liable to break easily and which are to be handled with special care shall be called a "fragile parcel".

2 The following shall be called a "cumbersome parcel": any parcel:

2.1 whose dimensions exceed the limits laid down in the Postal Parcels Regulations or those which administrations shall set between themselves;

2.2 which, by reason of its shape or structure, does not readily lend itself to loading with other parcels or which requires special precautions.

3 Fragile parcels and cumbersome parcels shall be subject to a supplementary charge, **the maximum amount of which is laid down in the Parcel Post Regulations**. If the parcel is both fragile and cumbersome the supplementary charge shall be collected once only. However, the air surcharges in respect of these parcels shall not be increased.

4 The exchange of fragile parcels and cumbersome parcels shall be restricted to those administrations which admit such items.

Article 24

Consignment service

1 **Postal** administrations may agree among themselves to take part in an optional "Consignment" service for collective items from one consignor sent abroad.

2 Wherever possible, this service shall be identified by the logo defined in the Postal Parcels Regulations.

3 The details of this service shall be laid down bilaterally between the administration of origin and the administration of destination on the basis of provisions defined by the Postal Operations Council.

Article 25¹

Items not admitted. Prohibitions

1 Items not fulfilling the conditions laid down in the Convention and the Regulations shall not be admitted.

2 **Subject to the exceptions set out in the Regulations**, the insertion of the articles referred to below shall be prohibited in all categories of items:

2.1 narcotics and psychotropic substances;

2.2 explosive, flammable or other dangerous substances as well as radioactive **materials**;

2.2.1 the following shall not come within this prohibition:

2.2.1.1 the biological substances sent in letter-post items mentioned in article 44;

¹ See Fin Prot arts XII, XIII and XIV.

- 2.2.1.2 the radioactive materials sent in letter-post items and postal parcels mentioned in article 26;**
- 2.3 obscene or immoral articles;
- 2.4 live animals, apart from the exceptions provided for in 3;
- 2.5 articles of which the importation or uttering is prohibited in the country of destination;
- 2.6 articles which, by their nature or their packing, may expose officials to danger, or soil or damage other items or postal equipment;
- 2.7 documents having the character of current and personal correspondence exchanged between persons other than the sender and the addressee or persons living with them.
- 3 *However, the following shall be admitted:*
- 3.1 in letter-post items other than insured items:
- 3.1.1 bees, leeches and silk-worms;
- 3.1.2 parasites and destroyers of noxious insects intended for the control of those insects and exchanged between officially recognized institutions;
- 3.2 in parcels, live animals whose conveyance by post is authorized by the postal regulations of the countries concerned.
- 4 The insertion of **the articles mentioned below** shall be prohibited in postal parcels.
- 4.1 **documents having the character of current and personal correspondence exchanged between the sender and the addressee or persons living with them;**
- 4.2 **correspondence of any kind exchanged between persons other than the sender and the addressee or persons living with them.**
- 5 It shall be prohibited to insert coins, bank notes, currency notes or securities of any kind payable to bearer, travellers' cheques, platinum, gold or silver, whether manufactured or not, precious stones, jewels or other valuable articles:
- 5.1 in uninsured letter-post items; however, if the internal legislation of the countries of origin and destination permits this, such articles may be sent in a closed envelope as registered items;
- 5.2 in uninsured parcels exchanged between two countries which admit insured parcels; in addition, any administration may prohibit the enclosure of gold bullion in insured or uninsured items originating from or addressed to its territory or sent in transit à découvert across its territory; it may limit the actual value of these items.
- 6 Printed papers and literature for the blind:
- 6.1 shall not bear any inscription or contain any document having the character of current and personal correspondence;
- 6.2 shall not contain any postage stamp or form of prepayment, whether cancelled or not, or any paper representing a monetary value.
- 7 **The treatment of items wrongly admitted is set out in the Regulations. However, items containing articles mentioned in 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3 shall in no circumstances be forwarded to their destination, delivered to the addressees or returned to origin.**

Article 26**Radioactive materials**

1 Admission of radioactive materials made up and packed in accordance with the respective provisions of the Regulations shall be restricted to relations between postal administrations which have declared their willingness to admit them either reciprocally or in one direction only.

2 When they are sent in letter-post items, they shall be subject to the tariff for priority items or the tariff for letters and registration.

3 Radioactive materials contained in letter-post items or postal parcels shall be forwarded by the quickest route, normally by air, subject to payment of the corresponding surcharges.

4 Radioactive materials may be posted only by duly authorized senders.

Article 27**Redirection**

1 If an addressee changes his address, items shall be reforwarded to him forthwith, under the conditions laid down in the Regulations.

2 Items shall not however be redirected:

2.1 if the sender has forbidden redirection by means of a note in a language known in the country of destination;

2.2 if they bear in addition to the addressee's address the expression "or occupant".

3 Postal administrations which collect a charge for requests for redirection in their internal services shall be authorized to collect this same charge in the international service.

4 Apart from the exceptions provided for in the Regulations, no additional charge shall be collected for letter-post items redirected from country to country. However, administrations which collect a charge for redirection of items in their internal service shall be authorized to collect this same charge on the international letter-post items redirected within their own countries.

Article 28**Undeliverable items**

1 Postal administrations shall return items which it has not proved possible to deliver to the addressees for whatever reason.

2 The period of retention of items is laid down in the Regulations.

3 If a parcel cannot be delivered or if it is held officially, it shall be dealt with in accordance with the instructions given by the sender within the limits set by the Parcel Post Regulations.

4 If the sender has abandoned a parcel which it has not been possible to deliver to the addressee, that parcel shall be treated by the administration of destination according to its own legislation. Neither the sender nor any other postal administration shall be required to cover any postal charges, customs duty or other fees which may be incurred in respect of the parcel.

5 Articles contained in a parcel whose early deterioration or decay is to be feared, and those articles only, may be sold immediately, without prior notice or legal formality. The sale shall be on behalf of the rightful owner even in course of transmission on either the outward or the return journey. If sale is impossible, the spoilt or decayed articles shall be destroyed.

6 Apart from the exceptions provided for in the Letter Post Regulations, no additional charge shall be collected for undeliverable items returned to the country of origin. However, administrations which collect a charge for return of items in their internal service shall be authorized to collect this same charge on the international mail returned to them.

7 Notwithstanding the provisions under 6, when an administration receives, for return to the sender, items posted abroad by customers residing in its territory, it shall be authorized to collect from the sender or senders a handling charge per item not to exceed the postage charge that would have been collected had the item been posted in the administration in question.

7.1 For the purposes of the provisions under 7, the sender or senders shall be understood as being the persons or entities whose name appears in the return address or addresses.

Article 29¹

Withdrawal from the post. Alteration or correction of address at the sender's request

1 The sender of a letter-post item may have it withdrawn from the post, or have its address altered or corrected under the conditions laid down in the Regulations.

2 If its legislation permits, each **postal** administration shall be bound to accept requests for withdrawal from the post or alteration or correction of the address in respect of any letter-post item posted in the service of another administration.

3 The sender shall pay, for each request, a special charge the maximum amount of which is set in the Regulations.

4 The sender of a parcel may ask for it to be returned or for its address to be altered. He must guarantee payment of the amounts due for any onward transmission.

5 However, administrations shall have the option of not accepting the requests referred to in 4 when they do not accept them in their internal service.

Article 30²

Inquiries

1 Inquiries shall be entertained within a period of **six months** from the day after that on which the item was posted.

2 Each **postal** administration shall be bound to accept inquiries relating to any item posted in the service of another administration.

3 Separate inquiries shall be made for uninsured and insured parcels.

4 Inquiries shall be free of charge. However, if a request is made for transmission **by EMS**, the additional costs shall, in principle, be borne by the person making the request.

¹ See Fin Prot art XV.

² See Fin Prot art XVI.

Article 31¹

Customs control

1 The postal administrations of the countries of origin and destination shall be authorized to submit items to customs control, according to the legislation of those countries.

2 Items submitted to customs control may be subjected to a presentation-to-Customs charge, the maximum amount of which is set in the Regulations. This charge shall only be collected for the submission to Customs and customs clearance of items which have attracted customs charges or any other similar charge.

Article 32

Customs clearance fee

1 Postal administrations which are authorized to clear items through the Customs on behalf of customers, may charge customers a customs clearance fee based on the actual costs.

Article 33

Customs duty and other fees

1 Postal administrations shall be authorized to collect from the senders or addressees of items, as the case may be, the customs duty and all other fees which may be due.

Chapter 2

Liability

Article 34²

Liability of postal administrations. Indemnities

1 General

1.1 Except for the cases provided for in article 35, postal administrations shall be liable for:

1.1.1 the loss of, theft from or damage to registered items, **ordinary** parcels and insured items;

1.1.2 the loss of recorded delivery items;

1.2 **When the loss of, total theft from or total damage to registered items, ordinary parcels and insured items is due to a case of force majeure for which indemnity is not payable, the sender shall be entitled to repayment of the charges paid, with the exception of the insurance charge.**

2 Registered items

2.1 If a registered item is lost, **totally rifled or totally damaged**, the sender shall be entitled to an **indemnity set in the Letter Post Regulations**. **If the sender has claimed an amount less than the amount set in the Letter Post Regulations, administrations**

¹ See Fin Prot art XVII.

² See Fin Prot arts XVIII, XIX and XX.

may pay that lower amount and shall receive reimbursement on this basis from any other administrations involved.

- 2.2 If a registered item is partially rifled or partially damaged, the sender shall be entitled to an indemnity corresponding, in principle, to the actual value of the theft or damage. It may, however, in no case exceed the amount set in the Letter Post Regulations in case of loss, total theft or total damage. Consequential losses or loss of profits shall not be taken into account.

3 Recorded delivery items

- 3.1 If a recorded delivery item is lost, **totally rifled or totally damaged**, the sender shall be entitled to refund of the charges paid.

4 Ordinary parcels

- 4.1 If a parcel is lost, **totally rifled or totally damaged**, the sender shall be entitled to an indemnity of an amount set in the Parcel Post Regulations.

- 4.2 If a parcel is partially rifled or partially damaged, the sender shall be entitled to an indemnity corresponding, in principle, to the actual value of the theft or damage. It may, however, in no case exceed the amount set in the Parcel Post Regulations in case of loss, total theft or total damage. Consequential losses or loss of profits shall not be taken into account.

- 4.3 Postal administrations may agree to apply, in their reciprocal relations, the amount per parcel set in the Parcel Post Regulations, regardless of the weight.

5 Insured items

- 5.1 If an insured item is lost, **totally rifled or totally damaged**, the sender shall be entitled to an indemnity corresponding, in principle, to the **insured value in SDRs**.

- 5.2 If an insured item is partially rifled or partially damaged, the sender shall be entitled to an indemnity corresponding, in principle, to the actual value of the theft or damage. It may, however, in no case exceed the amount of the insured value in SDRs. Consequential losses or loss of profits shall not be taken into account.

6 In the cases mentioned in 4 and 5, the indemnity shall be calculated according to the current price, converted into SDRs, of articles or goods of the same kind at the place and time at which the item was accepted for conveyance. Failing a current price, the indemnity shall be calculated according to the ordinary value of articles or goods whose value is assessed on the same bases.

7 When an indemnity is due for the loss of, total theft from or total damage to a **registered item, ordinary parcel or insured item**, the sender, or the addressee, as the case may be, shall also be entitled to repayment of the charges and fees paid with the exception of the **registration or insurance charge**. The same shall apply to **registered items, ordinary parcels or insured items** refused by the addressee because of their bad condition if that is attributable to the postal service and involves its liability.

8 Notwithstanding the provisions set out under 2, 4 and 5, the addressee shall be entitled to the indemnity after delivery of a rifled or damaged registered item, **ordinary parcel or insured item**.

9 The administration of origin shall have the option of paying senders in its country the indemnities prescribed by its internal legislation for registered items and uninsured parcels, provided that they are not lower than those laid down in 2.1 and 4.1. The same shall apply to the administration of destination when the indemnity is paid to the addressee. However, the amounts laid down in 2.1 and 4.1 shall remain applicable:

- 9.1 in the event of recourse against the administration liable; or
- 9.2 if the sender waives his rights in favour of the addressee or vice versa.

Article 35¹

Non-liability of postal administrations

1 Postal administrations shall cease to be liable for registered items, recorded delivery items, parcels and insured items which they have delivered according to the conditions laid down in their regulations for items of the same kind. Liability shall, however, be maintained:

- 1.1 when theft or damage is discovered either prior to or at the time of delivery of the item;
- 1.2 when, internal regulations permitting, the addressee, or the sender if it is returned to origin, makes reservations on taking delivery of a rifled or damaged item;
- 1.3 when, internal regulations permitting, the registered item was delivered to a private mailbox and, in the course of the inquiry, the addressee declares that he did not receive the item;
- 1.4 when the addressee or, in the case of return to origin, the sender of a parcel or of an insured item, although having given a proper discharge, notifies the delivery administration without delay that he has found theft or damage. He shall furnish proof that such theft or damage did not occur after delivery.

2 Postal administrations shall not be liable:

- 2.1 in cases of force majeure, subject to article 12.4;
- 2.2 when they cannot account for items owing to the destruction of official records by force majeure, provided that proof of their liability has not been otherwise produced;
- 2.3 when such loss, theft or damage has been caused by the fault or negligence of the sender or arises from the nature of the contents;
- 2.4 in the case of items whose contents fall within the prohibitions specified in article 25, in so far as these items have been confiscated or destroyed by the competent authority because of their contents;
- 2.5 when the items have been seized under the legislation of the country of destination, as notified by the administration of that country;
- 2.6 in the case of insured items which have been fraudulently insured for a sum greater than the actual value of the contents;
- 2.7 when the sender has made no inquiry within **six months** from the day after that on which the item was posted;
- 2.8 in the case of prisoner-of-war or civilian internee parcels.

3 Postal administrations shall accept no liability for customs declarations in whatever form these are made or for decisions taken by the Customs on examination of items submitted to customs control.

Article 36

Sender's liability

1 The sender of an item shall be liable for any damage caused to other postal items as a result of the dispatch of articles not acceptable for conveyance or the non-observance of the conditions of acceptance.

¹ See Fin Prot art XXI.

- 2 The sender shall be liable within the same limits as postal administrations.
- 3 The sender shall remain liable even if the office of posting accepts such an item.
- 4 However, the sender shall not be liable if there has been fault or negligence on the part of **postal** administrations or carriers.

Article 37¹

Payment of indemnity

1 Subject to the right of recourse against the administration which is liable, the obligation to pay the indemnity and to refund the charges and fees shall rest either with the administration of origin or with the administration of destination.

2 The sender may waive his rights to the indemnity in favour of the addressee. Conversely, the addressee may waive his rights in favour of the sender. The sender or the addressee may authorize a third party to receive the indemnity if internal legislation allows this.

3 The administration of origin or destination, as the case may be, shall be authorized to indemnify the rightful claimant on behalf of the administration which, having participated in the conveyance and having been duly informed, has allowed two months **and, if the case was reported by fax or any other electronic means by which receipt of the inquiry can be confirmed, 30 days** to pass without finally settling the matter, or without having reported:

3.1 that the damage appeared to be due to a case of force majeure;

3.2 that the item had been detained, confiscated or destroyed by the competent authority because of its contents or seized under the legislation of the country of destination.

4 The administration of origin or destination, as the case may be, shall be authorized to indemnify the rightful claimant in cases where the inquiry form is not properly completed and has to be returned for additional information, thereby causing the time limit set in 3 to be exceeded.

5 In the case of an inquiry concerning a COD item, the administration of origin shall be authorized to indemnify the rightful claimant up to the COD amount on behalf of the administration of destination which, having been duly informed, has allowed two months to pass without finally settling the matter.

Article 38

Possible recovery of the indemnity from the sender or the addressee

1 If, after payment of the indemnity, a registered item, a parcel or an insured item or part of the contents previously considered as lost is found, the sender or the addressee, as the case may be, shall be advised that the item is being held at his disposal for a period of three months on repayment of the amount of the indemnity paid. At the same time he shall be asked to whom the item is to be delivered. *In the event of refusal or failure to reply within the prescribed period, the same approach shall be made to the addressee or the sender as the case may be.*

2 If the sender and the addressee refuse to take delivery of the item, it shall become the property of the administration or, where appropriate, administrations which bore the loss.

3 In the case of subsequent discovery of an insured item the contents of which are found to be of less value than the amount of the indemnity paid, the sender or the addressee, as the case may be, shall repay the amount of this indemnity against return of the item, without prejudice to the consequences of fraudulent insurance.

¹ See Fin Prot art XXII.

Article 39**Exchange of items**

- 1 Administrations may exchange, via one or more of their number, closed mails as well as à découvert items according to needs and service requirements.
- 2 When exceptional circumstances oblige a postal administration temporarily to suspend its services wholly or in part, it shall immediately inform the administrations concerned.
- 3 When the conveyance of mail in transit through a country takes place without the participation of the postal administration of that country, this administration shall be informed in advance. This form of transit shall not involve the liability of the postal administration of the transit country.
- 4 Administrations may send surface mails by air, with reduced priority, subject to the agreement of the administrations which receive such mails at the airports of their country.

Article 40**Exchange of closed mails with military units**

- 1 Closed letter-post mails may be exchanged through the intermediary of the land, sea or air services of other countries:
 - 1.1 between the post offices of any member country and the commanding officers of military units placed at the disposal of the United Nations;
 - 1.2 between the commanding officers of such military units;
 - 1.3 between the post offices of any member country and the commanding officers of naval or air units, warships or military aircraft of the same country stationed abroad;
 - 1.4 between the commanding officers of naval or air units, warships or military aircraft of the same country.
- 2 Letter-post items enclosed in the mails referred to under 1 shall be confined to items addressed to or sent by members of military units or the officers and crews of the ships or aircraft to or from which the mails are forwarded. The rates and conditions of dispatch applicable to them shall be fixed, according to its regulations, by the postal administration of the country which has made the military unit available or to which the ships or aircraft belong.
- 3 In the absence of special agreement, the **postal** administration of the country which has made the military unit available or to which the warships or military aircraft belong shall be liable to the administrations concerned for the transit charges for the mails, the terminal dues and the air conveyance dues.

Article 41**Determination of liability between postal administrations**

- 1 Until the contrary is proved, liability shall rest with the postal administration which, having received the item without comment and being furnished with all the prescribed means of inquiry, cannot prove either delivery to the addressee or, where appropriate, correct transfer to another administration.
- 2 If the loss, theft or damage occurs in course of conveyance without it being possible to establish in which country's territory or service it happened, the administrations concerned shall bear the loss equally. However, in the case of an uninsured parcel, when the amount of indemnity does not exceed the amount calculated in article 34.4.1, for a parcel of 1 kilogramme, this sum

shall be borne equally by the administration of origin and the administration of destination, intermediate administrations being excluded.

3 As regards insured items, the liability of an administration towards other administrations shall in no case exceed the maximum insured value that it has adopted.

4 Postal administrations not providing the insured items service shall assume, in respect of such items conveyed in closed mails, the liability laid down for registered items and/or for uninsured parcels. This provision shall also apply when postal administrations do not accept liability for insured items carried on board the ships or aircraft used by them.

5 If the loss, theft or damage of an insured item occurs in the territory or service of an intermediate administration which does not provide the insured items service, the administration of origin shall bear the loss not covered by the intermediate administration. The same rule shall apply if the amount of the damage is higher than the maximum insured value adopted by the intermediate administration.

6 Customs duty and other fees of which it has not been possible to secure cancellation shall be borne by the administrations liable for the loss, theft or damage.

7 An administration which has paid the indemnity shall take over the rights, up to the amount of the indemnity, of the person who has received it in any action which may be taken against the addressee, the sender or third parties.

Chapter 3

Provisions specific to letter post

Article 42

Quality of service targets

1 Administrations shall fix a service target for the handling of priority and airmail items and for the handling of surface and non-priority items addressed to or sent from their country. The target shall be no less favourable than those applied to comparable items in their domestic service.

2 Administrations of origin shall publish service targets for priority and airmail items for abroad by reference to the targets fixed by the administrations of origin and destination and including the conveyance time.

3 Postal administrations shall undertake to verify periodically that the established times are achieved either within the framework of the surveys organized by the International Bureau or by the Restricted Unions, or on the basis of bilateral agreements.

4 It is also desirable that postal administrations should verify periodically that the established times are achieved, using other quality control systems, in particular external quality control.

5 Wherever possible, administrations shall implement quality measurement systems for international mails (both outgoing and incoming); this should, as far as possible, include measurement from posting to delivery (end-to-end).

6 All member countries shall provide the International Bureau with up-to-date information about the **latest transport arrival times (LTAT)** against which they operate for international postal purposes. **Any changes shall be advised as soon as they are planned in order to allow the International Bureau to communicate these changes to postal administrations before they are applied.**

7 Where possible, separate information shall be provided for priority and non-priority streams of traffic.

Article 43¹

Posting abroad of letter-post items

1 A member country shall not be bound to forward or deliver to the addressee letter-post items which senders residing in its territory post or cause to be posted in a foreign country with the object of profiting by the more favourable rate conditions there.

2 The provisions set out under 1 shall be applied without distinction both to letter-post items made up in the sender's country of residence and then carried across the frontier and to letter-post items made up in a foreign country.

3 The administration of destination may claim from the sender and, failing this, from the administration of posting, payment of the internal rates. If neither the sender nor the administration of posting agrees to pay these rates within a time limit set by the administration of destination, the latter may either return the items to the administration of posting and shall be entitled to claim reimbursement of the redirection costs, or handle them in accordance with its own legislation.

4 A member country shall not be bound to forward or deliver to the addressees letter-post items which senders post or cause to be posted in large quantities in a country other than the country where they reside **if the amount of terminal dues to be received is lower than the sum that would have been received if the mail had been posted in the country where the senders reside.** The administration of destination may claim from the administration of posting payment commensurate with the costs incurred and which may not exceed the higher of the following two amounts: either 80% of the domestic tariff for equivalent items, or 0.14 SDR per item plus 1 SDR per kilogramme. If the administration of posting does not agree to pay the amount claimed within a time limit set by the administration of destination, the administration of destination may either return the items to the administration of posting and shall be entitled to claim reimbursement of the redirection costs, or handle them in accordance with its own legislation.

Article 44

Admissible biological materials

1 **Perishable biological substances, infectious substances and solid carbon dioxide (dry ice) when used as refrigerant for infectious substances may be exchanged through mail only between officially recognized qualified laboratories. These dangerous goods may be acceptable in mail for air carriage, subject to national legislation and current Technical Instructions of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and as reflected in the IATA Dangerous Goods Regulations.**

2 **Perishable biological substances and infectious substances made up and packed in accordance with the respective provisions of the Regulations shall be subject to the tariff for priority items or to the tariff for registered letters. An additional charge for the handling of these items is allowed.**

¹ See Fin Prot art XXIII.

- 2.1 Admission of perishable biological substances and infectious substances shall be restricted to those member countries whose postal administrations have declared their willingness to admit such items, whether reciprocally or in one direction only.
- 2.2 Such substances or materials shall be forwarded by the quickest route, normally by air, subject to the payment of the corresponding air surcharges and shall be given priority in delivery.

Article 45

Electronic mail

- 1 Postal administrations may agree with each other to participate in electronic mail services.
- 2 Electronic mail is a postal service which uses telecommunications for transmitting within seconds messages true to the original posted by the sender in either a physical or an electronic form for delivery to the addressee in a physical or electronic form. In the case of physical delivery, the information is generally transmitted by electronic means for the longest possible part of the way and reproduced in physical form as near as possible to the addressee. Physical messages are delivered in an envelope to the addressee as a letter-post item.
- 3 The tariffs applicable to electronic mail are fixed by administrations, taking costs and market requirements into account.

Article 46

Transit charges

- 1 Subject to article 52, closed mails exchanged between two administrations or between two offices of the same country by means of the services of one or more other administrations (third party services) shall be subject to the payment of transit charges. The latter shall constitute remuneration for the services rendered in respect of land transit, sea transit and air transit.
- 2 A découvert items may also be subject to transit charges.
- 3 The conditions for application and the scales are specified in the Letter Post Regulations.

Article 47¹

Terminal dues. General provisions

- 1 Subject to article 52, each administration which receives letter-post items from another administration shall have the right to collect from the dispatching administration a payment for the costs incurred for the international mail received.
- 2 For the application of the provisions concerning the payment of terminal dues, postal administrations shall be classified as "industrialized countries" or "developing countries", in accordance with the list drawn up for this purpose by Congress.
- 3 The provisions of the present Convention concerning the payment of terminal dues are transitional arrangements, moving towards a country-specific payment system.

¹ See Fin Prot art XXIV.

- 4 **Access to the domestic service**
- 4.1 Each administration shall make available to the other administrations all the rates, terms and conditions offered in its domestic service on conditions identical to those proposed to its national customers.
- 4.2 A dispatching administration may, on similar conditions, request the administration of an industrialized country of destination to offer it the same conditions that the latter offers to its national customers for equivalent items.
- 4.3 The administrations of developing countries shall indicate whether they authorize access on the conditions mentioned in 4.1.
- 4.3.1 When an administration of a developing country states that it authorizes access on the conditions offered in its domestic system, that authorization shall apply to all Union administrations on a non-discriminatory basis.
- 4.4 It shall be up to the administration of destination to decide whether the conditions of access to its domestic service have been met by the administration of origin.
- 5 The terminal dues rates for bulk mail shall not be higher than the most favourable rates applied by administrations of destination under bilateral or multilateral agreements concerning terminal dues. It shall be up to the administration of destination to decide whether the terms and conditions of access have been met by the administration of origin.
- 6 The Postal Operations Council shall be authorized to amend the payments mentioned in articles 48 to 51 between Congresses. Any revision carried out shall be based on reliable and representative economic and financial data **and take into account all the provisions on terminal dues in the Convention and the Letter Post Regulations.** Any amendment decided upon shall come into force at a date set by the Postal Operations Council.
- 7 Any administration may waive wholly or in part the payment provided for under 1.
- 8 The administrations concerned may, by bilateral or multilateral agreement, apply other payment systems for the settlement of terminal dues accounts.

Article 48¹

Terminal dues. Provisions applicable to exchanges between industrialized countries

- 1 Payment for letter-post items, including bulk mail but excluding M bags, shall be established on the basis of the application of the rates per item and per kilogramme reflecting the handling costs in the country of destination; these costs must be in relation with the domestic tariffs. The rates shall be calculated in accordance with the conditions specified in the Letter Post Regulations.
- 2 For the years 2001 to 2003, the rates per item and per kilogramme may not be higher than those calculated on the basis of 60% of the charge for a 20-gramme letter in the domestic service, or exceed the following rates:
- 2.1 for the year 2001, 0.158 SDR per item and 1.684 SDR per kilogramme;
- 2.2 for the year 2002, 0.172 SDR per item and 1.684 SDR per kilogramme;
- 2.3 for the year 2003, 0.215 SDR per item and 1.684 SDR per kilogramme.
- 3 For the years 2004 and 2005, the Postal Operations Council shall set the final percentage of the tariffs appropriate to each industrialized country in line with the relations between the costs and tariffs of each country.

¹ See Fin Prot art XXIV.

4 For the period from the year 2001 to the year 2005, the rates to be applied may not be lower than 0.147 SDR per item and 1.491 SDR per kilogramme.

5 For M bags, the rate to be applied shall be 0.653 SDR per kilogramme.

5.1 M bags weighing less than 5 kilogrammes shall be considered as weighing 5 kilogrammes for terminal dues payment purposes.

6 The administration of destination shall have the right to collect an additional payment of 0.5 SDR per item in respect of the delivery of registered items and of 1 SDR per item in respect of the delivery of insured items.

7 The provisions applicable between industrialized countries shall apply to any developing country which declares that it wishes to abide by them and would like to be considered an industrialized country for purposes of the provisions of articles 48 to 50 and those of the corresponding Letter Post Regulations.

Article 49¹

Terminal dues. Provisions applicable to mail flows from developing countries to industrialized countries

1 Payment

1.1 Payment for letter-post items, excluding M bags, shall be 3.427 SDR per kilogramme.

1.2 For M bags, the rate to be applied shall be 0.653 SDR per kilogramme.

1.2.1 M bags weighing less than 5 kilogrammes shall be considered as weighing 5 kilogrammes for terminal dues payment purposes.

1.3 The administration of destination shall have the right to collect an additional payment of 0.5 SDR per item in respect of the delivery of registered items and of 1 SDR per item in respect of the delivery of insured items.

2 Revision mechanism

2.1 An administration dispatching a mail flow of over 150 tonnes a year may have the rate given in 1.1 revised when, in a given relation, it establishes that the average number of items contained in 1 kilogramme of mail dispatched is less than 14.

2.2 An administration receiving a mail flow of over 150 tonnes a year may have the rate given in 1.1 revised when, in a given relation, it establishes that the average number of items contained in one kilogramme of mail received is more than 21.

2.3 The reason shall be carried out on the terms specified in the Letter Post Regulations.

3 System harmonization mechanism

3.1 When an administration receiving a mail flow of over 50 tonnes a year establishes that the annual weight of this flow exceeds the threshold calculated in accordance with the conditions set out in the Letter Post Regulations, it may apply to the excess mail the payment system provided for in article 48 provided that it has not applied the revision mechanism.

4 Bulk mail

4.1 The payment for bulk mail shall be established by applying the rates per item and per kilogramme provided for in article 48.1.

¹ See Fin Prot art XXIV.

Article 50¹

Terminal dues. Provisions applicable to mail flows from industrialized countries to developing countries

1 Payment

1.1 Payment for letter-post items, excluding M bags, shall be 3.427 SDR per kilogramme.

1.1.1 The terminal dues stemming from application of the rate given in 1.1 shall be increased by 7.5% under the head of a fund to finance improving quality of service in developing countries.

1.2 For M bags, the rate to be applied shall be 0.653 SDR per kilogramme.

1.2.1 M bags weighing less than 5 kilogrammes shall be considered as weighing 5 kilogrammes for terminal dues payment purposes.

1.3 The administration of destination shall have the right to collect an additional payment of 0.5 SDR per item in respect of the delivery of registered items and of 1 SDR per item in respect of the delivery of insured items.

2 Revision mechanism

2.1 An administration receiving a mail flow of over 150 tonnes a year may have the rate revised when, in a given relation, it establishes that the average number of items contained in 1 kilogramme of mail received is more than 21.

2.2 The revision shall be carried out on the terms specified in the Letter Post Regulations.

3 Bulk mail

3.1 Administrations which do not authorize access on the conditions offered in the domestic service may request for bulk mail received a payment of 0.14 SDR per item and 1 SDR per kilogramme.

3.2 Administrations which authorize access on the conditions offered in the domestic service may apply to bulk mail received a payment corresponding to the domestic tariffs, increased by 9%, offered to national customers for items of the same kind, without being able to exceed the rates given in article 48.2.

Article 51²

Terminal dues. Provisions applicable to exchanges between developing countries

1 Payment

1.1 Payment for letter-post items, excluding M bags, shall be 3.427 SDR per kilogramme.

1.2 For M bags, the rate to be applied shall be 0.653 SDR per kilogramme.

1.2.1 M bags weighing less than 5 kilogrammes shall be considered as weighing 5 kilogrammes for terminal dues payment purposes.

1.3 The administration of destination shall have the right to collect an additional payment of 0.5 SDR per item in respect of the delivery of registered items and of 1 SDR per item in respect of the delivery of insured items.

¹ See Fin Prot art XXIV.

² See Fin Prot art XXIV.